

Lastly, Mr. President, this bill also includes a technical change to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone small business contracting program (HUBZone program) administered by the SBA. The HUBZone program is designed to provide contracting opportunities in economically distressed areas of this country. One of the criteria for this program is that a small business must be located in a qualified census tract or nonmetropolitan county based on unemployment statistics from the Department of Labor and the Department of the Census.

As new data becomes available, there is a possibility that HUBZone firms would lose their eligibility, because the data could reflect that the census tract the firm is located in is technically no longer considered an economically depressed area. As ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and as a cosponsor of the original HUBZone law passed in 1997, I am concerned that when a particular area is no longer deemed HUBZone-eligible, small business owners in that area will lose the ability to bid on contracting opportunities under the program with little or no warning. This will be disruptive to the program and could discourage participation by qualified small businesses.

Because it is better policy to provide both small firms and the SBA with some sort of warning before a firm is deemed ineligible, this amendment is intended to allow a HUBZone firm located in an economically depressed area that has been redesignated by either Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or Census data, to remain eligible under the program for three additional years. Thus the firm is put on notice that contracting opportunities under the program may not be available in the future, and the business is given time to plan for this change.

While I understand only a handful of firms were affected by a change in designated areas when new BLS data was released last year, I support the chairman's effort to ensure that no firm is taken by surprise this year. I am pleased that Senator BOND and his staff worked together with my staff to come up with appropriate language for this amendment.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this bill. If, as expected, it is enacted, they will have improved the business climate and taken a few more steps to ensure that small businesses have access to capital and expanded procurement opportunities.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 2614), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE CHARTER AMENDMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4387, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4387) to provide that the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is ratified by the voters of the District of Columbia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4387) was read the third time and passed.

THE SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY SUBMILLIMETER ARRAY ON MAUNA KEA AT HILO, HAWAII

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2498, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2498) to authorize the Smithsonian Institutions to plan, design, construct and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2498) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2498

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FACILITY AUTHORIZED.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory, administra-

tive, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out this Act, \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2002, which shall remain available until expended.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE STATUS OF CERTAIN LAND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 595, S. 1967.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1967) to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1967) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1967

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STATUS OF CERTAIN INDIAN LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) all land taken in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on or after December 23, 1944, shall be part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation;

(2) all land held in fee by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians located within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, as shown in the report entitled "Report of Fee Lands owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians", dated September 28, 1999, on file in the Office of the Superintendent, Choctaw Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, is hereby declared to be held by the United States in trust for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and

(3) land made part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation after December 23, 1944, shall not be considered to be part of the "initial reservation" of the tribe for the purposes of section 20(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii)).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the application or the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) with respect to any lands held by or for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians regardless of when such lands were acquired.